

The ingenious author of some letters lately published, addressed to the Earl of Carlisle, condemns the idea of any Retrospect : in this general assertion, I must beg leave to differ with him ; though great care should be observed in the conduct of it. No Retrospect proceeding from a peevish or vindictive spirit, can be beneficial ; but, on the contrary, a cool dispassionate revision of public management, becomes necessary, from every motive of policy and sound reasoning. Justice to those who are suspected of misconduct, would suggest the idea, if the public utility were out of the question. Ministers may have proceeded upon wrong grounds, though from the most laudable motives, They may have been deceived, and misrepresentation may have produced the most fatal effects—on the other hand, Ministers may either have been negligent, or criminal. At all events, a Retrospect will at least produce the good effect, of disclosing the hidden causes of our present unhappy situation ; and it will be some consolation to those, under whose Administration we are reduced to it, if they can prove themselves unfortunate only, not guilty.

The sole purpose of this Letter, (after having stated those reasons which have convinced me of the